

FAMILY FEUD BACK OF YONKERS MURDER?

Mrs. Tucker, the Victim, Was
Once Wife of George Blumer
of North Salem.

Police Investigating to Ascertain if
She Was Ever Divorced from
Her First Husband.

TWO MORE SUSPECTS UNDER ARREST.

Bank Stolen From the House Found in the
Roadway Near the Scene of the
Tragedy—How Watch Was
Not Stolen.

Four men, one a tramp, were arrested Tuesday by the Yonkers police upon suspicion of being implicated in the murder of Mrs. Edmund T. Tucker, at her home in the village of Yonkers, on Monday. One of the prisoners, named Michael Byrne, was found to be wearing a pair of shoes which exactly fitted footprints found near the scene of the tragedy.

The mystery surrounding the murder of Mrs. Edmund T. Tucker at her home in Yonkers, yesterday assumed an entirely new phase. Since the dead woman was found on Monday evening strangled to death in her home on Central avenue, in the outskirts, the theory of the Yonkers police has been that the crime was committed by a tramp for the purpose of robbery.

In working upon this basis the police had arrested up to yesterday four men. Another homeless man has been added to the list, and while all five prisoners are held pending further developments, it has been learned that it is quite probable that the main theory of the police is not founded so strongly upon facts as not to warrant a change of basis. The casting aside of the position the police have taken leads them to a romantic story. The developments of yesterday are of such a sensational character as to lead the authorities to carefully weigh all of the stories told, in the hope that within the romance itself might be found the motive



Thomas Lancaster.

The homeless man arrested on suspicion by the Yonkers police in connection with the murder of Mrs. Edmund T. Tucker. He is the latest suspect.

for the murder of Mrs. Tucker. The tale has all of the elements which point to murder, not to say that as yet there is any basis for a suspicion that the motive was followed by the fatal effect.

MRS. TUCKER'S HISTORY.
The first link in the chain which leads from the tramp theory comes from Mrs. Mary Hughes, an old resident of Tuckahoe, the tiny village where Edmund T. Tucker was employed by the Hodgman Rubber Company, and where he and his murdered wife passed the first few months of their wedded life. Mrs. Hughes's home is situated on the line which divides Lakeville, a suburb of Tuckahoe, and the latter village.

"I remember Mrs. Tucker very well," she said yesterday. "She and her husband lived, after their marriage, within a block or two of my house. She was a tiny little woman, not much more than five feet tall, and was a great deal older than her husband. I remember that Mrs. Tucker had been married before she was wedded to Tucker, but I cannot remember the name of her first husband, although there was a child as the result of the union. I do not know whether the first husband is dead or alive, and I do not know whether the child lived or not."

Mrs. Hughes added that Mrs. Tucker, for many years prior to her marriage, had worked for the Hodgman Rubber Company, and met Tucker there. Tucker was employed as foreman of the rubber coat finishing room in the factory and Mrs. Tucker was one of the many female operatives under his charge.

"I remember," continued Mrs. Hughes, "that Mrs. Tucker's diminutive size was always a source of sport in the factory. She used to laugh about it herself, and joke about her having to stand on a stool to do certain kinds of work which any ordinary woman could easily have accomplished without that. Mrs. Tucker was employed as foreman of the rubber coat finishing room in the factory and Mrs. Tucker was one of the many female operatives under his charge."

A LUCKY RECOLLECTION.
A daughter of Mrs. Hughes, who lives with her mother, supplied a fact or two more about Mrs. Tucker's life before her marriage which can well be woven into the web of the dead woman's life history. She said that before her marriage Mrs. Tucker often used to boast to her factory friends that even if she was little in size she was admired by the men.

Although a trifling bit of talk in itself, it is regarded as lucky that the speaker remembered it, as it may be the basis for a suspicion that jealousy may have been a prime factor in Mrs. Tucker's tragic death, together with her unborn babe, from strangulation. Then came another grave statement to be considered with some care.

"I remember," continued the narrator, "that the Tucker family generally were opposed to the marriage of Tucker to Annie Lait, as the murdered woman was known prior to her marriage. Mrs. Tucker was thirty-four years old when she married Tucker. He was then only twenty, and you see, as they had been married when Mrs. Tucker was murdered just four years, she was thirty-eight years old and her husband twenty-four."

The question is now being asked, Had this disparity in years caused any unhappiness in the Tucker family which might lead to a tragedy?

Still another point remembered by Mrs. Hughes's daughter touches upon a family difference between Mrs. Tucker and one of her relatives. While Mrs. Tucker was at first employed in the Hodgman Rubber Company's works she boarded with the family of William H. Lait. The head of this household was her cousin, and he was employed as a night watchman at the rubber works and lived in the village of Tuckahoe. In some way or other, just

how no one seems to know, Mrs. Tucker quarreled with her relatives.

A NEIGHBOR'S QUARREL.

Some people say that the cause of the quarrel was found in the attentions Tucker was then paying to his future wife. At all events the future Mrs. Tucker went to board with a family named Dayton, living at Yonkers Park, near Tuckahoe, as a result of the quarrel. At this time Tucker was dissatisfied with his position with the rubber company—he was only getting a salary of \$9 a week—and he attempted to get employment upon the Harlem Road, a position which would pay him \$40 a month. Manager Wilbur Underhill, of the rubber company, heard of this effort, and thinking that Tucker was a valuable man in his place raised his salary to \$10 a week, and Tucker then gave up his quest for a railroad position. About this time William H. Lait resigned his position with the rubber company and went to the house he now occupies, about half a mile from the scene of the murder, and which is the farm home of his father-in-law, Nathaniel Lent.

Since then the Lait family have been living by working the farm in question, and as they were near neighbors to the Tuckers it would be well to know whether the quarrel which caused Mrs. Tucker to leave her home when they lived in Tuckahoe had ever been amicably adjusted. The Lait family consists of several children. One of them, Maud, takes much lessons of Mrs. Hughes's daughter. She is only thirteen years of age, but passes readily for seventeen. She is one of the children who visited the Tucker homestead on the day of the murder just about the time that Mrs. Tucker must have been lying dead within the house.

DAYTON'S STATEMENT.

So much for one part of Mrs. Tucker's early life. Next in importance comes the statement of Joseph P. Dayton, who lives in Pipe Line lane, at Yonkers Park, opposite the Methodist Episcopal Church, which the Tuckers have often attended.

"I have known the Lait family for forty years," he said. "William H. Lait's father was a small farmer at Purdy's, on the Harlem road near Katonah. Years ago I was employed by Hart Purdy on his farm near the station, and I used to deliver milk to the Lait family. At that time Mrs. Tucker's father, John Lait, lived near Purdy's station. Mrs. Tucker became acquainted with a young man named George Blumer, the son of quite a wealthy farmer who lived at North Salem, just near the Connecticut line. I remember that Blumer was compelled to marry Mrs. Tucker, and soon after a child was born. It is now dead, I believe."

"Blumer, I have been told, said to his wife after the marriage, 'Now, my dear, you will never see me again. You think you are big enough to do anything, and I guess you are big enough to look out for yourself.'"

"Blumer then disappeared. He never lived a day with his wife. Three years later his wife came to Tuckahoe, where she was known as Annie Lait. Her life was always blameless and she was well thought of by all her friends."

Dayton added that Mrs. Tucker first came to board with his family four years ago on the 24th of last April. He says the trouble with the Lait family caused her to come to board with him.

SHE HAD TO WAIT.

"She lived here about four months before her marriage," added Dayton. "One day she asked me if I thought there would be any harm in Tucker's coming to board with us, too. He had had trouble with his father, and decided to leave home. It seems that old Mr. Tucker was vexed one day over the obstinacy of a calf he was leading and began beating the animal. His son made him stop and a quarrel followed."

"I told Mrs. Tucker then that I saw no impropriety in Tucker coming to board with us. About a month later the couple went to Purdy's, where Mrs. Tucker's mother lived, and were married. They left my house together for that purpose."

When asked if any divorce had ever been obtained by Mrs. Tucker from her first husband, Dayton maiden sister said that she thought she knew Mrs. Tucker as well as any one and that once she had asked her why she preferred to work in the factory, at the risk of her health, rather than marry Tucker at once.

"Ed would marry me in a moment," the speaker quoted Mrs. Tucker as saying. "But I have to wait a certain time."

"Do you think Mrs. Tucker was ever divorced from her first husband?" was asked.

"As I understand it," was the reply, "not having heard from her first husband in seven years prior to her marriage to Tucker, she was free to become his wife."

"Do you think it possible that the first husband of Mrs. Tucker could in any way be connected with the crime?"

"I do not know."

Aside from this history of Mrs. Tucker's early life, little was unearthed by the police yesterday of great value. The most valuable bit of work was in the arrest at Purdy's Station, where Mrs. Tucker once lived, of a tramp.

The man partially answers the description of the tramp George Tucker, the dead woman's son, says asked his mother for "change" on the day of the murder, and upon her refusal to give it strangled her. The man makes the fifth arrest in connection with the case. About the only possible connection with the case he may have is based upon his wearing a pair of rubber boots and a long black overcoat, which witnesses of circumstances surrounding the murder agree to have been worn by the man seen around the Tucker house on the afternoon Mrs. Tucker was slain.

Robert F. White, Justice of the Peace at Purdy's, says that the suspect applied for lodgings to the Overseer of the Poor there on Tuesday evening.

The man said that he was Thomas Lee, the Justice added, "but finally said that his right name was Thomas Lancaster. He said that he had walked from Yonkers to White Plains on Monday, and on Tuesday walked from White Plains to Purdy's. I found in his possession \$40 in bills, two twenty-five-cent pieces, six ten-cent pieces, three five-cent pieces and twenty-two pennies. He said that he lived in Dexter, Maine, and was in search of work."

TELLTAE MONEY.

Policeman Peter McGowan, of the Yonkers force, went to Purdy's yesterday afternoon and last evening took Lancaster to Yonkers and looked him up. His having so much money, especially when about \$25 is known to have been stolen from the Tucker house by the man who killed Mrs. Tucker, and that a bank owned by little George Tucker, is looked upon by the Yonkers police as suspicious. The bank in question was a little round tin savings bank, with a slit in the top. It was painted yellow and bore the American colors on a shield, flanked by two crossed American flags. In the bank were three



Mrs. Louis R. Davidson.

(Photographed by Gilbert, Washington.)

The handsome and accomplished daughter of Senator M. S. Quay, who was married at her father's home in Washington last evening.

QUAY'S DAUGHTER WEDS.

Her Union with Louis R. Davidson Celebrated in the Senator's Handsome House in Washington.

Washington, Jan. 29.—Miss Mary A. Quay, eldest daughter of Senator and Mrs. M. S. Quay, was married to-night to Mr. Louis R. Davidson, of Beaver, Pa. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Dr. Hamilton, in the music room, which is finished in pale pink. The large double windows were filled with towering palms, and before this bower the bride stood. The mantels were banked with pink bridesmaid roses, carnations and ferns, and from a graceful arrangement of the palms in the spacious hallway was an aisle made entirely of similar over the effect in wood.

The bride was escorted into the room by her father, Senator Quay, who gave her hand in marriage. Directly preceding her was her younger sister, Miss Carolina Quay, as maid of honor. She wore a dainty gown of pale blue gauze over a pale blue silk, and carried a bouquet of bridal roses.

Columbian half dollars, a \$2.50 gold piece and a roll of bills of unknown denomination. None of the money found on Lancaster could be identified as having ever been in the bank.

The missing bank itself was found yesterday by Roundsman William M. Lawson, of the Yonkers police. He was making a search of the vicinity of the Tucker house, and he found the missing bank with its lid lying on the left-hand side of the road and the main portion on the right-hand side, in the gutter. The place where the bank was found is about half-way from footprints which correspond with those made by the shoes worn by suspect Michael Byrnes, and toward the woods where he, James G. Lellis and Charles Meyers were cutting cane roots on the day of the murder. Later the police fitted the shoes of Byrnes into the tracks found around the bank, and again gained a bit of corroborative evidence against Byrnes, as the shoes and the footprints exactly matched.

The bank was taken to Police Headquarters, in Yonkers, and was carefully examined. It was found to have been battered and broken on the top, with a stone probably. In this manner it was opened. The hurry of the murderer to get at its contents is shown in the fact that the bank, when found, still contained 75 cents in coins.

At the time of the murder it was supposed that Mrs. Tucker's gold watch had been stolen. This was not the case, however. The police learned that the watch had been purchased as a Christmas gift at Hoffmann's jewelry store in Mount Vernon. The timepiece was found there, Mrs. Tucker having left it to be repaired a few weeks ago. This leaves only three other rings to be accounted for from all the articles which were supposed to have been taken from the Tucker house.

No effort was made by the Yonkers police to try and have George Tucker, the dead woman's son, says asked his mother for "change" on the day of the murder, and upon her refusal to give it strangled her. The man makes the fifth arrest in connection with the case. About the only possible connection with the case he may have is based upon his wearing a pair of rubber boots and a long black overcoat, which witnesses of circumstances surrounding the murder agree to have been worn by the man seen around the Tucker house on the afternoon Mrs. Tucker was slain.

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GREATER NEW YORK MAY BE RUSHED.

Platt Said to Have Issued a
Hurry Call for Consolidation
Legislation.

This Is Believed to Mean That the
Andrew H. Green Bill Will Be
Speedily Passed.

LEXOW TO GIVE A HEARING HERE.

Brooklyn Leaders Come Out for Consolidation, and Commissioner Parker
Pleads a Cause That Means Eventually His Own Undoing.

The surprise and comment caused by the publication of Senator Lexow's determination to wind up the hearings in Greater New York to-day, caused that gentleman to reconsider his decision.

After the hearing in the Assembly Chamber this evening Senator Lexow said there would be another hearing on Saturday morning in the Criminal Court House in New York. The Senator said the subcommittee had thought that to-day's hearing would be sufficient, as no one from New York had requested a hearing, but in response to a request received this morning he had decided to have a supplementary hearing. It is understood that Andrew H. Greer, president of the Consolidation Commission, suggested the propriety of another hearing.

The subcommittee, through Senator Lexow, will report on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week a preliminary statement in reference to Greater New York. This is taken to mean the speedy passage of the Andrew H. Green bill, decreeing consolidation, providing, however, that it does not go into effect until 1898. The blanketing of the various departments in all the municipalities concerned is, however, to be completed before that time. As the subcommittee has until March 1 in which to make a preliminary report, this shows that Senator Platt has issued the "hurry up" order and that the consolidating of the New York and Brooklyn Police, Fire and Health departments will be fully accomplished before the next election.

The two dramatic scenes at the hearing to-day, the denunciation by Senator McGinnis and Assemblyman Ebbetts of the bill to discontinue the Excise Board, and the declaration of the Excise Board, from consideration of the bill to relieve liquor dealers in New York City from loss which they would sustain through the decision of the Court of Appeals upon the question of maintaining a saloon within 200 feet of a church or school.

He said there was no politics whatever in the bill. There was a difference between his bill and the resolution of Mr. Ebbetts. That resolution had called for relief, but the majority leader had stated that it was a relief bill. He said that the bill was a relief bill, and that it was a relief bill. He said that the bill was a relief bill, and that it was a relief bill. He said that the bill was a relief bill, and that it was a relief bill.

THREATENED BY GERMAN

They Tell the Committee if No Sunday Law Is Passed Republicans Will Suffer.

Albany, Jan. 29.—The joint legislative committee which is considering excise legislation to-day, and not on behalf of liquor dealers and brewers. The organizations are not directly or indirectly interested in the liquor or brewing trade, nor are we retained by any one trade or man to appear before you. We suggest the proposed change of law as a measure of good government and in the interest of peace, comfort and good order of the Commonwealth. The Raines bill, as well as all present excise laws, relate to the peace, comfort and good order of the Commonwealth. We do not ask for the opening of the bar, but we are against the drinking at the bar, but we want the right to take stimulating refreshments with meals on Sundays.

The Sunday law has never been and is not now fully enforced, not even by Commissioner Roosevelt, despite his frantic and desperate efforts to accomplish the impossible. It cannot be enforced because it is not supported by the people.

The speaker then grew threatening and declared: "Should the measure, however, fall of enactment, and should the Raines bill pass, it will be as certain as the rising of the sun that the Republican party will suffer at the next election, at least in all the cities in the State, the same defeat which was suffered by the Republican party in all cities and counties to unite large and populous districts."

You speak of London, interrupted Senator McGinnis, "but you do not know London there are nineteen municipalities. I don't know anything about that," said Mr. Tenney, "but you do know that London occupied one square mile, and that now it occupies 122 square miles." Mr. Tenney concluded by saying that the original question was not a new one by any means.

Mr. Wray arose to present a telegram from the Young Republican Club of Brooklyn, declaring its belief that a referendum law is a proper one to pass at this time. Mr. Wray explained that Seth Poy had been the president of this club, which was composed of the best element of Brooklyn's population.

"How many persons were present at the meeting at which this action was taken?" asked Mr. Tenney. "The club has three thousand members, and I have heard all about that meeting."

Mr. Wray said he knew nothing about how many members were present, and Senator Lexow said the committee regretted very much the injection of politics into the matter. Senator Wray replied that the club was not a partisan institution, but had great influence in Brooklyn generally.

"Yes; once a year it has influence," remarked Mr. Tenney.

Commissioner Parker then made a long legal argument in favor of the pending Andrew H. Green bill. He took up objections made by the anti-consolidationists, and the referendum advocates speedily and replied to them all. He then made a significant statement about the political aspect of the situation.

WILL RECOIL UPON THEM.
"It is said," remarked Commissioner Parker, impressively, "that there is behind this consolidation project a sinister plan, a plan which has for its object the advancement of the interests of some political organization. If that is so I believe it will recoil on the party that engineered such a scheme, and will bring over their heads the storm of public opinion."

Senator McGinnis, whose seat is being contested, took the floor to say that he had never by any act of his justified the statement that the entire Brooklyn legislative delegation is against consolidation. "On this count," he said, "Senator McGinnis is 'prior' to my election. I was approached by two persons and asked to sign a paper in which I declared myself against consolidation. I declined to sign that paper, and was told by these persons that I would be defeated at the polls. I made many speeches during the campaign, and at each meeting asked those present who favored consolidation to hold up their hands, and the results I obtained would not justify me in voting against Greater New York."

Assemblyman Ebbetts, who represents the Twelfth Assembly District in Kings County, came before the committee and said he never said he was against consolidation. On the contrary, he favored it, and said his district, which cast a majority of votes for the Greater New York proposition, would support it. He said that he had never said he was against consolidation. On the contrary, he favored it, and said his district, which cast a majority of votes for the Greater New York proposition, would support it.

The anti-consolidationists were completely demoralized at the attitude of Senator McGinnis and Assemblyman Ebbetts, and the chairman, There is little doubt here to-night that some sort of Greater New York legislation will be enacted within the next three weeks.

TAXES FOR GREATER NEW YORK

The Anti-Equalization League Sees Only Loss for This City.

FLAWS IN THE DRIVEWAY.

Experts Point Out to the Park
Board Defects That Must
Be Remedied.

Great Pressure on the Retaining
Walls in Section One Not
Properly Resisted.

DEFECTIVE DESIGN IS TO BLAME.

Crib Work on Section One Not Built in
Accordance with the Specifications, and
Must Be Filled in Over Again.

There Was Too Much Haste.

James J. R. Croes, Professor Burr, of Columbia College, and Theodore Cooper, who were appointed by the Park Board to hear claims of contractors and engineers in the matter of the Harlem River Drive, have today rendered their report.

The paper was filed with the Board several days ago, but was not made public until yesterday. No action has yet been taken on it.

The report begins with the letter of instructions to the experts, dated December 18, 1895. These referred chiefly to the subway on section one of the driveway, as to what defects exist there, the cause of them and how they can best be remedied.

After a long and careful investigation the experts found that the retaining wall in the vicinity of the subway and the entire subway masonry are supported upon piles driven one and a half and three feet between centers, reinforced under the west platform masonry only by bags of concrete deposited among them. After the piles were driven and cut off at mean low water level, the vacant spaces among them were filled with small cobble stones up to two feet below their tops, from which level to one foot six inches under the platform and stairway masonry concrete was deposited.

The original plans contemplated a timber grillage or platform on the tops of the piles under the sidewalk of the archways, between the retaining walls. The bedrock under the driveway at this point is but a few feet below low water at the westerly edge of the platform, and the concrete slopes steeply downward toward the east. The original contemplated two rows of sloping brace piles, to be driven along the east face of the wall, and to be connected, in pairs, to prevent an eastward movement of the subway and adjacent masonry.

On January 18, 1894, the Board of Park Commissioners, on the recommendation of the engineers, authorized the omission of the timber grillage and the substitution of a masonry wall, a masonry wall and over the piles similar to that under the exterior wall. During the progress of the work the engineer in charge, under the authority of the Board, by contract, authorized the omission of seventy-eight sloping brace piles along the east face of the wall, and the substitution of a masonry wall, a masonry wall and over the piles similar to that under the exterior wall. During the progress of the work the engineer in charge, under the authority of the Board, by contract, authorized the omission of seventy-eight sloping brace piles along the east face of the wall, and the substitution of a masonry wall, a masonry wall and over the piles similar to that under the exterior wall.

The report at great length describes in pressures upon the retaining walls and piles, and the cause of the damage already resulted in opening the transverse cracks from one "two inches. Then" report adds:

"The opinion of your committee is that the failure of this part of the retaining wall is due to the omission of the timber grillage, and to the substitution of a masonry wall, a masonry wall and over the piles similar to that under the exterior wall. During the progress of the work the engineer in charge, under the authority of the Board, by contract, authorized the omission of seventy-eight sloping brace piles along the east face of the wall, and the substitution of a masonry wall, a masonry wall and over the piles similar to that under the exterior wall."

The experts found that the crib work on section No. 1 was not built in strict accordance with the specifications, and that the failure must be attributed solely to defective design. A large mass of rip-rap having been deposited outside of the face of this masonry wall, it would cause the failure of this part of the work, and that the same construction should be employed where pile foundations may be used under similar conditions.

MASSONRY WELL EXECUTED.
"So far as can be judged from the inspection of the work in its present condition, the masonry appears to have been well executed, and in its construction must be attributed solely to defective design. A large mass of rip-rap having been deposited outside of the face of this masonry wall, it would cause the failure of this part of the work, and that the same construction should be employed where pile foundations may be used under similar conditions."

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